Five Year Plan period, the outlay for construction of courts including High Courts through development of infrastructure, their modernization and computerization of all courts has been enhanced to Rs. 1470 crore.

Reservation in judiciary

374. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

whether Government has received any proposal to extend reservation in judiciary for SCs/STs;

if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

if not, the reasons therefor; and

the present status of SC/ST persons in judiciary?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (d) The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Law and Justice. In their Report submitted to the Parliament on the Judges (Inquiry) Bill, 2006 has recommended bringing the higher judiciary under the ambit of reservation.

Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court of India and High Courts are made under articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India, respectively, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons.Any change in the present system would require Constitutional amendment. No statistics is, therefore, maintained regarding the nubmer of SC/ST Judges in the Supereme Court and the High Courts.

So far the District and Subordinate Courts are concerned, appointments of Judicial Officers for the same is done by respective State Governments/High Courts.

Amendment in Contempt of Courts Act

375. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minsiter of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

whether Government proposes to amend the Contempt of Courts Act;

if so, the details of the proposed amendments; and

whether any Bill for amending the Act is proposed to be introduced during the Budget Session?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Setting up of more courts

376. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Justice of India has recently urged Government to set up more courts with better infrastructure in view of huge number of pending cases;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;